

# Mansfieldian

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SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE



*Friends from Afar*

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# Mansfieldian

THE MAGAZINE FOR  
MANSFIELD ALUMNI

SPRING/SUMMER ISSUE  
VOL. 1 No.2



## A Note from the Alumni Association Board President



Giving back or the more recent phrase, “paying it forward” are the words we often hear when we are asked to consider volunteering our time, talents or resources. But how many times do we act upon those words?

Our lives are filled up with so many things that it seems we are constantly running, doing various activities without being able to sit back and decide what is truly important to us. Six years ago, when I was asked to volunteer for the Alumni Association Board of Directors, there was a lot going on in my life. I could have listed many valid reasons why I could not accept a position on the Board.

However, the dedicated support I received from my professors, my friends, my sorority and the University at large while I was an undergraduate student quickly rose to the surface. It was the “personal touch”, the “caring environment”, the “family feeling” that I felt. I was not just a number...I mattered.

These attributes have set Mansfield apart from other colleges and universities. And here I am, President of the MU Alumni Association! It makes me very proud to say that I have served with some of the finest, most dedicated and professional alumni this university can call its own.

The Office of Alumni Relations staff has also dedicated their time and talents to strengthening the relationship between alumni and the university. And for this I am thankful. Our goals, as an Association, are to create programs to meet the needs and interests of our alums, encourage our young alumni to share their time and talents and work together for the advancement of MU's future. Relationships have been formed, scholarships have been created and friendships will last our lifetimes...what could be more important to MU's legacy?

I encourage you to think about your experiences at Mansfield and the relationships you have formed. Think about your life after Mansfield, whether in the terms of career, friends or associations, and then ask yourself this question, “How can I serve the place that gave so much to me?”

With Mansfield Pride,

Sharon Mokrzynski Kendrick '81

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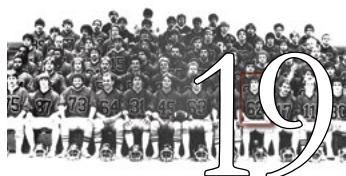
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Harry & Edith



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Creating Opportunities



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# The Mansfield Spirit, Needed Now More Than Ever



Looking ahead to July, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the reopening of North Hall. This magnificent building symbolizes Mansfield and the Mountie spirit in so many ways.

Every day when I walk through North Hall on my way to my office I am reminded of all those who gave their time and talent to make sure this magnificent structure continues to be part of our past, present and future. The effort it took to save it from the wrecking ball, renovate it and repurpose it to its current state was nothing short of monumental; the success of this endeavor demonstrates the steadfast commitment and resiliency of our University.

Much like the battle we faced to save North Hall, it is not an exaggeration to say that Mansfield University itself is in a battle to survive and continue to meet the needs of its students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends. This is not a new battle. It is one that we have fought before and won.

Funding from the state is down, as is enrollment. While we remain optimistic we will eventually see the 25% cut in state support levied six years ago restored, we are aggressively working on increasing our enrollment smartly in order to bring the number of students back to the levels that will allow us to build and sustain a bright future.

Our innovative scholarship and tuition programs, TEAM and FIT, have caught the attention of other schools and, most importantly, high school students and their parents. In its first year of use, TEAM brought 74 high achieving students to campus from eight different states. As we look to the incoming class for this coming fall, we have made 315 offers, received back 110 deposits from high merit students from 22 different states and two countries.

In a recent report from Harrisburg, the State System reported system-wide deposits by potential incoming freshman were down by nearly 20%, while Mansfield's deposits are up by over 39%. Please realize it is early in the recruitment cycle and these numbers will change. What is important to note is our efforts are working. Equally important is the fact there is a role for everyone to play.

As an Alum, I ask you to join us in our efforts to engage and educate others on the significance of attending Mansfield University. Your participation is valued and critical to our achieving our stated objective...ensuring there is a Mansfield University for the students of tomorrow. Each of us was shaped by our Mansfield experience. I invite you to reach out and let me know that you are willing to invest your time and talent to ensure this transformative experience will be there for future generations. I welcome your call.

I am H2S...Here to Serve!

Very respectfully,  
Francis L. Hendricks '79  
Brig. Gen., USAF (retired)  
PRESIDENT



# From Your Alumni Director

Dear Mansfield University Alumni,

In December of 2015, after working at Mansfield University for the last 12 years, I assumed the position of Director of Alumni Relations. While my time in the Alumni Relations office has been limited, I'm excited about the opportunity to draw from my previous experiences at the University to create programming that appeal to our entire alumni body. Programs, events, and services are designed to encourage alumni to get connected and stay connected to our Mansfield campus.

Throughout my career at MU, I've learned that to be a Mountie means to be part of a family and our MU family gives back. MU alumni regularly find ways to share their knowledge and expertise with our current students in order to better prepare them for their future. Our distinguished alumni often return to campus as guest lecturers in the classroom or at graduation, serve on the Alumni Association Board of Directors, work with the campus Career Center when their employer is seeking interns or new employees, and, most importantly, by referring prospective students to our Department of Admission.

The most impactful way alumni young and old can give back is to share their "Mansfield Experience" with future generations. Mounties have a passion for their alma mater that shines through when they speak of MU. Allow that passion to shine bright when you share with others how your time at MU shaped you, both as a student and after graduation.

If you don't know how to start sharing your MU experiences, I encourage you to return to campus to reinvigorate your passion and fond MU memories. Campus has changed in many ways over the last few years and in April, we reopened Straughn Auditorium after almost two years of renovations. The reopening was celebrated with a gala event on May 1, that will be featured in the next Mansfieldian. The spring commencement and graduation reception was held on May 7, where Sheri Beam '71 was the keynote speaker. We celebrated Alumni Weekend in June and have started planning for the 2016 Homecoming celebration scheduled for October 15. When you visit campus, please be sure to stop in the Alumni Relations office so that we can discuss ways that you can more formally reconnect to campus and our current students.


I look forward to meeting more alumni in the future and hear more personal accounts of the "Mansfield Experience". Please continue to visit our Alumni & Friends website at [alumni.mansfield.edu](http://alumni.mansfield.edu) for details about our upcoming events and to learn about new programs and offerings as they are announced.



Lindsey Sikorski  
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

# Enlightened Conversations

BY BEN AUGER



“The Fireside Chats are the highlight of my week, and reflect the reason I came to Mansfield to begin with - the possibility of making real connections with faculty and staff who really care about students.”

—English major Taylor Donahue '17

At Mansfield University, students have the opportunity to hone their academic skills in small classes which provide numerous opportunities to engage in critical inquiry, discourse and complex research projects. Learning takes place inside the classroom and education occurs outside of the classroom, especially at a new program titled The Fireside Chats.

The Fireside Chats began in the fall of 2015 as a collaborative effort between the Department of Housing, Dining, and Campus Life's Residence Director Ben Auger and Adrienne McEvoy, associate professor of Philosophy.

McEvoy is the director of the Great Conversations Honors Program at MU. This unique program hosts a variety of unique speakers, events, and activities that occur on campus. The Fireside Chats were created to provide students with an opportunity to get to know faculty and staff members in a casual and informal setting.

By creating a comfortable environment that lends itself to casual conversation, students can establish meaningful relationships. Hosting the program in Sycamore Hall is important because it demonstrates that faculty and staff have a genuine interest in the living experience of students while also ensuring that the program doesn't feel like a classroom lecture.

“The Fireside Chats are the highlight of my week, and reflect the reason I came to Mansfield to begin with—the possibility of making real connections with faculty and staff who really care about students,” English major Taylor Donahue '17 said.

Enlightening conversations frequently last for hours and students comment that they feel like they now have another person to reach out to at Mansfield. Another benefit of The Fireside Chats is to further develop

a mutually beneficial relationship between faculty and the administration in order to change the current campus culture. Faculty and staff relationships in higher education are often fractured and tenuous, but The Fireside Chats are helping to reverse that trend.

The Fireside Chats are not structured and formal, rather they are an opportunity to engage in casual conversation while relaxing and sipping tea, coffee, hot chocolate and enjoying light refreshments. The Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU) provided funding in order to sponsor the program and ensure that students have another opportunity to have a memorable collegiate experience. Students introduce themselves (name, class year, area of study) and then the featured guest is provided the opportunity to speak and natural conversation begins. Conversations have included a wide variety of topics including: hobbies, travel experiences, graduate school, the choice to work at MU, career advice, favorite movies/music, work experience, etc.

“The Fireside Chats have provided professors and staff with the opportunity to engage students in a comfortable setting while forgoing traditional professor/student roles,” Graphic Design major Samuel Schaar '16 said. “As a result, I have grown so much because I feel as though I am being taught by a friend that has unique and special knowledge. This has led to the establishment of relationships where professors continue to encourage and inspire us after The Fireside Chats.”

*The Fireside Chats are currently looking for additional sponsors. There is the possibility of creating a separate Alumni Conversations series where panels of speakers are comprised of visiting alumni. If you are interested in sponsorship or in the Alumni Conversations series, contact Ben Auger at [bauger@mansfield.edu](mailto:bauger@mansfield.edu)*



# Moving Mansfield Forward

On behalf of the Council of Trustees of Mansfield University, I extend the University's gratitude to the Mansfield Foundation for its 41 years of partnership and service to the University. The Foundation has managed gifts given by Mansfield alumni and friends for these past four decades and raised funds to benefit the university, its students, faculty, staff, and programs so that they would continue to thrive.

Even the best partnerships sometimes come to an end, and so it was in January of 2016 that the University and the Foundation parted company. The reasons for this are complex but it is important to note that both parties participated in good-faith negotiations and mutual problem solving before the final decision was made. It is critical to understand that the University and Foundation both remain committed to serving the students, parents, faculty, staff, and programs at Mansfield University.

The University is at a strategic crossroads and needs to transform itself to remain viable in the "new normal" of higher education in Pennsylvania. The Council of Trustees, administration and faculty and staff of Mansfield University are committed to navigating this institution through these current challenging times. We are on a path to realize a vision of sustainable growth and we fully appreciate the need to establish an ambitious and successful fund-raising capability for the university. Fund-raising is vital to the implementation of the vision laid out in the University's 2020 Strategic Plan. To ensure success, we moved this vital function in-house so that we can certify full accountability and complete transparency. The move also closely fulfills our need to be nimble as well as aggressive as we navigate through present and future difficult times.

The Mansfield Foundation still continues to provide much needed scholarship support to fulfill the intent of all donors who specified that their gifts were given to benefit students at Mansfield University. Funds previously raised for this purpose continue to benefit students today. The University remains in close contact with the Foundation so as to ensure this happens and that unrestricted funds raised to support the University also follow donor intent.

The University seeks to ramp up fund-raising efforts so we can adequately address the needs which safeguard our ability to remain an accessible and affordable institution of higher education. In fewer than 90 days we have secured a \$100,000 pledge and gifts exceeding \$106,000.

While relationships may evolve to meet the dictates of the times and circumstances, our dedication to the students of Mansfield stays the same. We unanimously support the University's vision and commitment to provide that unique Mansfield Experience to all who join the Mountie nation.

Ralph H. Meyer

CHAIRMAN, COUNCIL OF TRUSTEES



It is easy to stay connected with the Mansfield University campus and alumni communities through our social media channels.

Get connected.  
Stay connected.



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# Friends from Afar

BY BRAD LINT

有朋自远方来，不亦乐乎？

*Isn't it delightful when friends visit from afar? -Confucius*

From December through March, Mansfield University hosted eight graduate students from China in a special “Travel Study” program. The students were from Shaanxi University of Science and Technology (SUST), a major public university in China with over 21,000 students. The university is located in Xi’an, the capital of Shaanxi Province. Xi’an was formerly known as Chang’an, one of the four great ancient capitals of China and the starting point of the Silk Road. It is also the site of the famous “Terracotta Army” of over 8,000 soldiers, 600 horses, and 130 chariots buried with emperor Qin Shi Huang around 210 BC.

MU and SUST are both members of Sino-American Cooperation on Higher Education and Professional Development (CHEPD), which facilitates undergraduate and graduate dual degree programs. SUST invited MU to create a special “travel study” program for students to take classes and visit area tourist attractions. Provost Steven Siconolfi spearheaded a team of MU staff and faculty to develop the program, which was administered by Marie Domenech, Director of the Center for International Cooperation and Exchange, with logistical support from nearly all quarters of the university.

## HOMESTAY

In China, semesters are usually eighteen weeks long: fall semester lasts from August to January, and spring lasts from February to June. SUST allowed the eight students to finish their fall semester early and return a few weeks into spring, but this meant students would arrive during the MU winter break.

Fortunately, students had a two-week American homestay experience during the holidays before moving into the residence halls. Living with American families left a lasting impression on the students. Zhang Weipeng said this was the best part of the trip for him, noting, “This was the most memorable Christmas I have ever experienced.” Wei Zhen immensely enjoyed decorating a Christmas tree and visiting her hosts’ friends and family: “The couple treated me just like a friend, taking away all my worries as a newcomer to America.”

## TRAVEL

During their time in America, the students traveled extensively. In Pennsylvania, the students went to Amish country in Lancaster, the Philadelphia Flower Show, and the 100th Annual Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg. Several excursions were just across the border in New York: the students went to the Corning Museum of Glass, attended a chamber music concert at the Rockwell Museum, went ice skating at Nasser Civic Center, visited Cornell University, and spent a day on the Seneca Lake Wine Trail. Students also observed Chinese language classes at the Corning Chinese School and Notre Dame High School. Zhang Weipeng particularly enjoyed the Corning Museum of Glass, noting that in China, employees are usually the only ones who get to see production technology.

Since Mansfield is in the “center of everywhere,” students were also able to travel further afield. Students visited New York City and Niagara Falls, but they nearly all said Washington, D.C. was their favorite. Wei Zhen noted that while the United States only has 240 years of history compared to China’s 5000, “American history is incredibly well preserved in Washington, D.C. What’s more, I learned that Americans respect and are proud of their history.” Qiao Sen enjoyed seeing all three branches of

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government, and Meng Jingru said that while she had seen the White House countless times on TV and in movies, it was really special to see it in person.

## ACADEMICS

As the academic component of the program, students took three short-term graduate courses. Leadership Theory and Practical Application, taught by Adam Brennan and Adrienne McEvoy, focused on effective leadership in American business and professional life. Students examined multiple styles and approaches to leadership as well as the role of ethics in leadership practice. The students were particularly impressed by the StrengthsQuest survey. Dong Yue called it “an amazing test” and commented that the results accurately described her character.

Jeffrey Bosworth and Frank Chua co-taught The American Experience, a systematic introduction to the United States and its varied and complex culture. The course began with a discussion of what it means to be “American,” followed by a broad introduction to United States history. The class covered major political, economic, and social developments as well as trends in American popular culture; it also addressed a wide variety of topics, including political processes, race and ethnicity, gender, movies, music, art, social media, and technology. Gao Tingting credits this class with helping her understand the American electoral system, which she found all the more important in this election year.

The American Experience Lab, taught by Brad Lint, offered students practical experience using content from their other classes while improving their English.





Students discussed their excursions, presented on aspects of their home life and culture, and wrote observation reports and program evaluations. The class also helped students become familiar with American communication patterns, communicate in context, and articulate their own positions. Several students commented on the usefulness of this course.

Students had classes Monday through Thursday, with Fridays and weekends reserved for excursions and activities. Zhang Haoliang commented, “At first I thought I wouldn’t learn much in three short months, but I was wrong.” Gao Tingting added that although she and her classmates only had three courses, they “learned about the American electoral system, American higher education, the historical development of the United States, and American relationships and marriage.” Over thirty MU faculty members opened their classrooms to the students, allowing them to observe a wide variety of content and teaching methods. Wei Zhen commented, “American classroom teaching is very active and open, and MU professors inspire and guide students. Students are encouraged to express their views. MU’s emphasis on the liberal arts as well as sciences cultivates all students’ talents.”

## ADJUSTMENTS

One big transition for students was the shift from bustling metropolitan Xi’an, a city of 4.5 million people to

rural Mansfield, population 3,600. In Xi’an, mass public transportation makes it possible for people to travel just about anywhere whenever they like. As Dong Yue noted, it can be difficult for MU students to travel without a car. The students found, however, that a rural atmosphere has its own advantages. Kang Qian observed, “MU is a small university in the mountains, but that means students can focus on their studies. Sometimes I’ve even seen deer through the window!” Gao Tingting added, “At first I wondered what MU would be like knowing that it was in a rural area in the mountains. But we found the people here are wonderful.”

Another adjustment was food. Chinese cuisine is vastly different from American food. Fortunately, the students had the option to eat Chinese as well as American food here, and all students tried foods they had never eaten at home. The students had their first experience with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, for example, while camping at Hills Creek State Park.

Xi’an is in the northwest of China, where winter is dry and cold with a little snow, and the average January temperature is 32 F, about ten degrees warmer than Mansfield. Although this was a very mild winter, there were still a few below zero days, and when the students visited Seneca Lake, they spent an afternoon in the vineyards at 20 F with frigid winter winds.

It also took time for students to become accustomed to an all-English environment. Zhang Weipeng noted that

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With 55 years of head coaching experience and more than 1,250 combined wins, Mansfield University Head Baseball Coach Harry Hillson and Mountaineer Head Softball Coach

Edith Gallagher have set the standard of longevity and success during their long and successful careers.

Hillson, who is celebrating his 30th season at the helm, is the longest tenured head coach in the Mountaineers 149-year athletic history while Gallagher, now in her 25th season, is the school's longest serving women's head coach.

The dynamic duo also celebrated major milestones this spring when Gallagher picked up her historic 400th win and Hillson notched his 850th victory.

The two winningest coaches in Mansfield history, Hillson and Gallagher both started their Mountaineer careers as assistant coaches.

Hillson, who came to Mansfield after graduating from SUNY Cortland and playing a year of minor league baseball for the New York Yankees, was the understudy to then Head Coach Roger Maisner as a graduate assistant starting in the fall of 1984. He spent two seasons as an assistant before assuming the top spot for the 1987 season.

In his first 29 seasons, Hillson has directed his Mountaineers to 15 PSAC playoff berths, winning seven PSAC East titles and five PSAC Championships. His teams have appeared in eight NCAA Regional playoffs capturing three titles to advance to three trips to the NCAA Division II World Series including a second place finish in 1992. Hillson's 1995 team was ranked No. 1 in the nation in the NCAA Division II preseason poll and the subject of a feature story in Sports Illustrated.

Gallagher came to Mansfield in the fall of 1990 as an assistant field hockey and softball coach after an All-American and Hall of Fame career at Hofstra University. She spent a year serving under then head field hockey coach Dr. Art DeGenaro and head softball coach Joe French. Gallagher took over as the head coach of softball in 1992 and also added head field hockey coaching responsibilities during the 1992 and 1993 seasons.

In her first 24 seasons, Gallagher has directed teams to four trips to the ECAC Championship Tournament, winning the titles in 1992 and 2004. In 2009, she guided the Mounties to the program's first-ever PSAC playoff

“It always fills me with overwhelming gratitude to the family we have built at Mansfield. Watching them come back with their children and their spouses is extra special.”



berth. Her 2013 squad stands as the pinnacle of success, earning the Mountaineers first divisional championship by winning the PSAC Central title and earning the program's first-ever NCAA playoff berth.

As they each reflect on their milestone seasons this year, they both share similar sentiments about each other and their career at Mansfield.

"I just fell in love with Mansfield," explains Gallagher. "It holds a special place in my life."

It's not just the success on the softball field that makes the Mansfield experience so special to Gallagher. The true satisfaction comes from the student-athletes whose lives she has impacted and who have impacted hers.

"I love to stand back and look at all the former student-athletes, managers and families that come back for Homecoming and our alumni game," explains Gallagher. "It always fills me with overwhelming gratitude to the family we have built at Mansfield. Watching them come back with their children and their spouses is extra special."

For Hillson, the relationships with the community and players goes back even further but are equally as rewarding.

"For me, Mansfield has always been a special place," states Hillson. "It's a great school located in a wonderful community that cares about baseball."

"Baseball has been very good at Mansfield for long before I got here and part of my responsibility is that it's just as good whenever I leave. We have been blessed to have great players who were also great people."

While coaches and players come and go, one thing that stayed consistent over their tenure is the respect they have for each other.

"I really respect Harry for what he's done with his program," said Gallagher. "His success has been something to model after and he's been so easy and helpful to work with for all these years."

Hillson has the same feeling about Gallagher and the softball program.

"The best thing about our relationship is that we never seem to have an issue," said Hillson. "Edith would bend over backwards to help us and we would do the same for her."

That mutual respect has led to mutual success and to paraphrase Frank Sinatra – *"they did it their way."*



### Ken Bianchi, Class of 1967

A three-year starter and captain of the 1966-67 Mansfield State College men's basketball team under then head coach Bill Clark, Ken Bianchi become one of the few high school coaches in Pennsylvania history to reach the 700 win milestone when his Abington Heights team beat Holy Cross in December.

Bianchi is a legend in the Wyoming Valley area, with coaching stops in Line Mountain, Scranton Technical High School, and West Scranton in addition to his tenure at Abington Heights. The head coach at Abington Heights since 1996, Bianchi has guided the Comets to 11 league and eight district championships over his 20 year tenure. Over the last 19 years, his teams have won at least 20 games in a season 16 times including 22 games this season. Bianchi has an overall record of 722-347.

### Frank Wadas, Class of 1968

Frank Wadas was a member of the Class of 2016 for induction in the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in April at Hershey. The former head wrestling coach at Tunkhannock High School for 32 years, Wadas also officiated for 40 years before retiring in 2014. He served as the President of the District 2 & 12 Coaches Association and was the District 2 Treasurer for 16 years. Wadas also serves as Director of the Tunkhannock Kiwanis Wrestling Tournament.

### Steve McCloskey, Class of 1991

Longtime Director of Athletic Operations and Information Steve McCloskey is one of five sports information directors from across the country who will be inducted into the CoSIDA Hall of Fame this

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June in Dallas, TX. The CoSIDA Hall of Fame is the highest honor awarded in the profession. McCloskey will join SID's from the University of Southern California, Baylor, American and Southern Connecticut in the Class of 2016. McCloskey will also be honored with the Pete Nevins Award for Distinguished Achievement by the ECAC-SIDA at the organizations' annual convention in Lancaster, PA in June.

### Pat Donnelly, Class of 1992

A member of the Class of 1992 and former assistant basketball coach under Tom Ackerman at Mansfield University, Donnelly was named MaxPreps 2015-16 National Boys Basketball Coach of the Year after guiding the University of Detroit Jesuit High School and Academy to the Class A Michigan State Basketball Championship with a convincing 69-49 win over North Farmington in the title game.

Donnelly, who is both the director of Admissions and head basketball coach at Detroit U-D Jesuit, directed the team to the first state championship in school history as well as a perfect 28-0 record. Class A is the highest high school classification in Michigan. Cassius Winston, who signed to play for Michigan State next season, was also named Michigan's Mr. Basketball. Donnelly, who was an assistant coach for the Mountaineers 1997 national ranked and PSAC men's championship team, is married to the former Jen Halm, a member of the Class of 1991 and captain of the cheerleading team at MU.

### Katie Fitzpatrick, Class of 2016

Katie Fitzpatrick closed out one of the best all-around careers in Mansfield University women's basketball history by earning All-PSAC East 2nd Team honors. The senior forward helped the Mountaineers more than double their win

total from the previous year. She led the team in scoring, rebounds, assists and steals. Fitzpatrick also ranked among the PSAC leaders in each of those categories.

She ends her career as the programs' fourth all-time leading scorer with 1,301 points. Fitzpatrick is also fourth all-time in assists with 308 and steals 243, ninth in rebounds with 653 and 10th in blocks at 53.

### Thomas Moore, Class of 2016

Thomas Moore earned All-PSAC East 2nd Team honors, marking the ninth straight season Mansfield has had at least one men's basketball player named to PSAC postseason honors. Moore led the Mountaineers and ranked 11th in the PSAC in scoring, averaging 15.4 points an outing. The senior hit double-figure scoring in all but two games this season and had five games of 20+ points, including a career-high 26 at Alfred State.

Moore also ranked second in the conference in assists with 5.3 a game and ninth in 3-point field goal percentage at 38.2%. His 85 treys this season is tied for fifth most in the Mountaineer record book.

### Quashaun Jaquay Willis, Class of 2016

Quashaun Jaquay Willis recorded one of the most stunning upsets in PSAC Track & Field Championship history when he won the 800 meter run at the conference championship in February. Willis, who entered the race seeded 13th overall, won the 800m with a personal-best time of 1:55.95. The senior bettered his previous PR of 1:57.07 and registered the fourth fastest 800m time in school history.

Willis is the third Mansfield runner to capture the 800m title and first Mountaineer to win the 800m since Mike Robinson took first in the event at the 2014 conference championships.





Mansfield University will kick off an event-packed, season-long celebration honoring the 125th anniversary of Mountaineer football starting with the annual Steve Zegalia Memorial Football Golf Outing on July 8-9 at Corey Creek Golf Club.

Mansfield, which has one of the oldest collegiate football programs in the nation, organized its first football team in the spring of 1891 under the direction of Professor John E. Edwards. Edwards was the star running back at Lafayette prior to coming to Mansfield to teach ancient languages.

Mansfield soundly defeated Wellsboro by a score of 22-0 in the program's first game held at Smythe Park on May 23, 1891. According to local newspaper accounts, the game was played before a large gathering of spectators that filled the grand stands at the baseball field at Smythe Park and featured mascots and fans flying team colors. Mansfield dominated the game through the use of the newly introduced "flying wedge".

Mansfield, then known as Mansfield State Normal School, went on to play three more games in the fall of 1891, again beating Wellsboro before splitting a pair of games against Elmira.

That first team featured a total of 15 players, including Professor Edwards. Another member of that inaugural squad was Morton Jones who later became a famous player at Lafayette. Amos Reese joined him at Lafayette while James G. Dunsmore and

James A. Dunsmore both went on to football careers at Penn State.

One year later many of those same players would be members of Mansfield's most famous team, hosting what would become known as the world's first night football game and establishing Mansfield forever as the Birthplace of Night Football.

Over the next 123 years, thousands of young men would represent the Red and Black on the gridiron, creating some of the greatest tradition in school and national football history.

To this day, football remains one of Mansfield's most cherished and popular traditions, annually drawing 10,000 fans to campus during the fall.

In addition to events and recognition for football alumni during each of the Mountaineer's four home

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Representative Matt Baker meets with (front L-R) Riley Thomas, Emily Edwards, Jenna Townsend (back L-R) President Fran Hendricks, Damien Wickizer, Assistant Professor Michele Conrad and Tracey LaFrance.

## “We really do represent the future of Pennsylvania”

A contingent from Mansfield University was among the student-led teams from each of the 14 universities that comprise Pennsylvania’s State System of Higher Education (PASSHE) that canvassed the Capitol on April 6, meeting with legislators to discuss the important role the universities play in each of the campus communities, as well as in their regions and across the Commonwealth.

MU students Riley Thomas, English major, Harding, PA; Tracey LaFrance, Environmental Biology major, Wyalusing, PA; Jenna Townsend, Psychology major, Lawrenceville, PA; Damien Wickizer, Vocal Music Education, Laceyville, PA and Emily Edwards, Chemistry major, Sugar Run, PA, along with President Fran Hendricks ’79 and Council of Trustees Vice Chairman Steve Crawford ’81, talked with legislators about their own college experiences and how important the education they are receiving is to them and to their families. About 90 percent of the more than 100,000 students who attend State System universities are Pennsylvania residents, and the vast majority will stay here after graduation, to work, to live and to raise their families.

Mansfield students finished first in the State System #InvestInMe social media advocacy campaign and Thomas was selected to speak on behalf of the more than 100,000 State System students during an event in the Capitol Rotunda.

“We really do represent the future of Pennsylvania,” she said. “Most of us have lived here all of our lives; and most of us will stay here. When you support Mansfield University—when you support the State System—you’re not just helping out me and my family; you really are helping yourself, and your neighbors. You’re helping to build a stronger Pennsylvania.”

In addition to the students, Hendricks and Crawford, Assistant Professor of Chemistry Michele Conrad, Career Center Director Nichole Lefelhoc, Alumni Relations Director Lindsey Sikorski, Digital and Electronic Media Manager Adam Murtland ’12, and VP for Advancement Rita M. Dibble made up the delegation from Mansfield University.

In all, nearly 150 students, faculty, administrators, trustees and alumni took part in the two-

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*“When you support Mansfield University—when you support the State System—you’re not just helping out me and my family; you really are helping yourself, and your neighbors. You’re helping to build a stronger Pennsylvania.”*



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day advocacy effort on half of the State System.

“We have a great story to tell – and it’s one that impacts not just our students, but everyone in the Commonwealth,” Chancellor Frank T. Brogan said.. “The contributions our universities make all across Pennsylvania are enormous.”

In addition to meeting with legislators, representatives from each of the universities set up displays in the Capitol Rotunda, where they demonstrated some of their top academic programs and research projects and provided information about their schools to Capitol visitors.

The State System will receive about \$433 million from the state this year to help support the operation of the 14 universities. That funding represents one of the best investments Pennsylvania makes each year, Guido Pichini, chairman of the State System’s Board of Governors, said. “Not only do these universities provide opportunities to students who otherwise might not be able to attend college, they serve the entire Commonwealth,” Pichini said. “They generate enormous economic activity in their home communities, in their regions and across Pennsylvania—to the tune of nearly \$7 billion a year.

“In total, the universities produce \$11 in economic activity for every \$1 received from the Commonwealth through our annual appropriation,” he added. “That’s quite a return on investment, and it is something that benefits everyone in Pennsylvania.”

The State System universities combined have about 12,000 employees and support about 62,000 additional jobs, many with the hundreds of small businesses that thrive in the campus communities, contributing significantly to Pennsylvania’s economy.





# Creating Opportunities & Impacting Lives

When he came to Mansfield from Line Mountain, PA in 1978, Kent Smeltz planned on becoming a high school science teacher and football coach. The coaching part worked out, in fact he's back pursuing that passion, but he used the biology degree he earned at Mansfield, added an MBA, and went into the business world.

There, after a few stops along the way, he joined Advance Scientifics Inc. (ASI) in 1997 and rose to the rank of president of the company. Under his leadership ASI became a leading global provider of advanced single-use systems for the healthcare and life sciences industries.

ASI was sold in 2015, putting Smeltz out of a job but giving him more money than he ever imagined. He is exploring other business and investment opportunities, but in the meantime Smeltz wants to make an impact in other ways.

"We've had this good fortune, the Lord blessed us and guided me, with the great opportunity at ASI," Smeltz said. "We have this money now and I believe it comes with responsibility."

Through all those years Smeltz never forgot the opportunity Mansfield had offered him; the opportunity to pursue an education and play football. He and his wife, Pamela, decided they needed to offer opportunities to others who might not otherwise be able to go to college.

Smeltz has established a \$100,000 scholarship fund that will specifically benefit minority students-athletes from a public high school in Pennsylvania.

"I really feel that athletics is an extension of the classroom," Smeltz said. "Athletics has taught me lessons that have had a profound effect on my life and the success that I've had."

Smeltz also hopes the infusion of scholarship money can attract the kind of student-athletes whose participation will strengthen the teams at MU.

Back in 1978, Smeltz had offers to go to other colleges, but he believes deciding to go to Mansfield was exactly what he needed. It was the right fit for him.

"I believe the professors, at least in my experience, took more of a personal interest in you," he said. "Being involved in football kept things structured too. Coach (Joe) Bottiglieri was a good man. Russ Manning was the offensive line coach, a good Christian man, and there were just a lot of good people around us that were good role models."

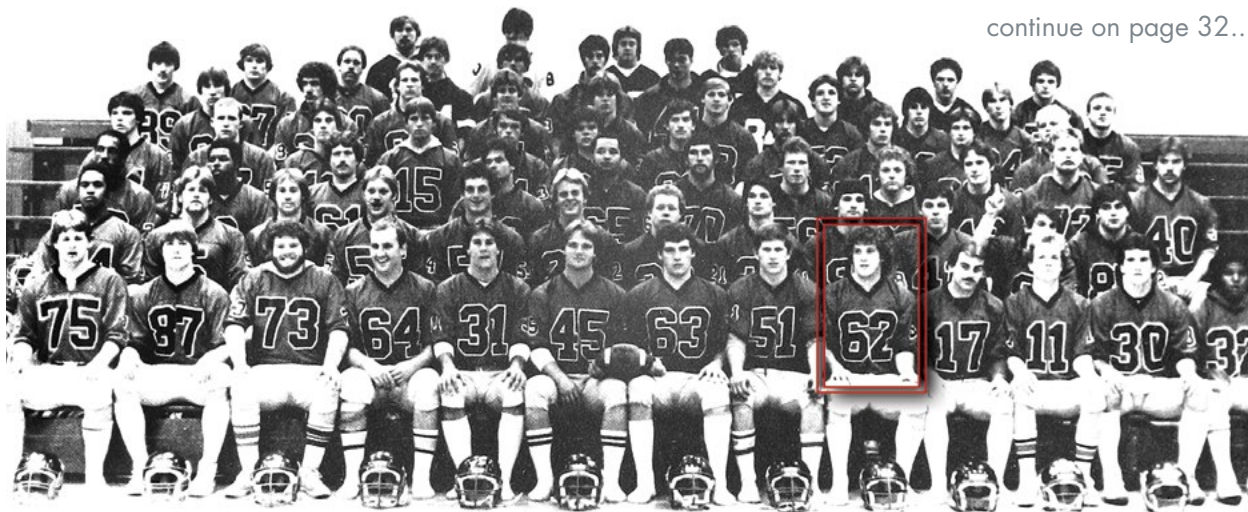
After finishing his playing career, Smeltz became the junior high wrestling coach in Mansfield and helped Bottiglieri with recruiting and other coaching duties. Bottiglieri encouraged Smeltz to apply for graduate assistant coaching positions and he got one at Bloomsburg University.

There he earned another bachelor's degree in accounting and an MBA. His time on the football staff revealed that

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**Kent Smeltz '82**



# Behind the Mask

## *The Story Behind Shrek The Musical*

BY BEN AUGER

Austin Boroch '17 entered Mansfield University as a Music Education major in the fall of 2013. His surprising musical talent was recognized and he was quickly offered a position in the highly competitive vocal performance major cohort while also being cast as Jean Valjean, the lead role, in *Les Miserables*.

Boroch was unable to participate in the production, declined the role, and declared a Music major in the spring of 2014, a major more in tune with his priorities and beliefs. At this point, he no longer believed that he would ever participate in another performance-based musical production again.

Skip ahead two years and Boroch starred as Shrek, the lead role, in *Shrek the Musical* in March, an experience that he “loved and wouldn’t change for the world.”

It’s the fall of 2015 and auditions for *Shrek the Musical* are approaching. Earlier in the fall, Boroch publicly declared a Communications major, much to the surprise of many who recognized his musical talent. Friends, faculty, and staff encouraged him to audition for the musical. Wanting to make his friends, faculty, and staff happy, while feeling the urge to perform, Boroch eventually decided to get back on the stage.

It’s Monday, audition time, and Boroch is nervous since he hasn’t used his voice in a few years. “I was petrified because when you don’t use your voice, you lose it,” he said.

Boroch also experiences terrible stage fright and finds the only way that he can overcome it is to lose himself in the role and bringing joy to audience members. The only difficulty is that during an audition you don’t have a role and the only “audience” members are the individuals that are judging you to determine if you are fit for the role. He remained resolute and performed “Til I Hear You Sing



from the musical *Love Never Dies* because he felt it was easy to connect to the piece and complemented his voice so well.

With high hopes Boroch auditioned, but left disappointed feeling that he didn’t perform well and sang the last three notes of the song out of tune. Call backs were set to occur on Wednesday and Boroch didn’t believe that he would hear anything. After not hearing anything on Wednesday, he decided that it was a failed attempt and would begin the process of moving on from the audition until he received a SnapChat from a friend with a huge smile saying “Congrats.” Overcome by a whirlwind of emotions, Boroch hurried up to Butler Hall and initialed next to his name on the cast list, indicating his acceptance of the role of Shrek.

The week following was full of activity as Boroch received his script, measurements were taken for the





costume, and rehearsals began on January 18. After six weeks of practicing, the final dress rehearsal was set for February 24. I received special permission from Peter Davis, the stage manager, and Professor Sheryl Monkelién, producer and director, to go backstage at each show and attend the final rehearsal.

The final rehearsal was held in Straughn Auditorium, a building that had been under renovation for close to two years, where the cast had only been able to practice for under two weeks. The lights dimmed and *Shrek the Musical* began in all its splendor. The passion and dedication I witnessed from the cast were second-to-none, and the students that I knew quickly molded into their roles. After a successful rehearsal, Peter and Dr. Monkelién complimented the cast and declared that they were ready for opening night on February 25 which would be a historic night for Straughn Auditorium since it was newly renovated and had not yet been available for the public to see.

On February 25, K-12 students from all-over the Tioga County area were treated with a special performance in the morning. This was particularly taxing on the cast since they would need to put on an amazing performance later that evening for opening night...the pressure mounted.

Opening night and the house is packed with guests eagerly waiting in the lobby area to get inside. Excited

murmurs and conversation echo off the marble walls in the waiting area until cheers of joy erupt as the doors open, tickets are collected, and individuals rush to sit in the front row. Soon, the lights dim and the audience marvels at the wonderful performance before them. Two hours full of emotion quickly fly by until the audience erupts in applause at the end of the show and demonstrates their approval with a standing ovation.

The loudest cheers are heard for Shrek (Austin), Fiona (Sara Polinski), Donkey (Jake Wilson), and Lord Farquaad (Lucas Lourenco) with many audience members asking for autographs or posing for pictures.

Word quickly spread that the show was stunning and between midnight on February 25 and 7 p.m. on February 26 the show sold over \$1,500 in online ticket sales. This is crucially important since these monies will provides additional opportunities for students and community members to engage in musical performances. The February 26th show was complemented by a show on the 27th and 28th. All of the shows received standing ovations with audience members lingering long after the show to interact with cast members and express their appreciation of such a wonderful performance.

During my time spent observing the production of *Shrek the Musical*, I witnessed profound dedication to the

*continue on page 22...*



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performance craft as well as genuine care for others. Every member of the production understood their role and the impact that it had on creating a successful show for the audience members. Boroch commented that “Everyone was there to live their passion for art and put on a great performance for the audience.” Below the stage, you could faintly hear the audience laughing or gasping in surprise which always elicited smiles from the cast. The more the audience became involved in the show, the more passionate the performances became, the cast feeding off of the energy from the audience.

The Green Room and Makeup Room are crazy places to be before and during a show, but individuals were always willing to take the time to have a conversation, provide assistance, and always put others before themselves. This is not something that I say for a few specific members of the cast, but for everyone involved! Shrek, the focal point of the show, thanked everyone he encountered audibly (or by signing during the show) for bringing him water, adjusting his makeup, or complimenting him on his performance. When I mentioned my observation of Austin’s gratitude and appreciation for others he had this to say, “I wanted to make everyone feel appreciated because they are. It’s impossible to do a show by yourself and I wanted to appreciate and validate others however I could.” Although Shrek was the main focus of the show, there are a few individuals that I would like to highlight for their contribution to the successful production of Shrek the Musical.

Monkelien worked as the Orchestra Conductor and made sure that all of the wonderful acting was complemented by moving musical pieces. She made costuming adjustments for the cast and helped them learn their songs while also choreographing a few of the dances seen during the musical.

Peter Davis, from the Arcadia Theatre in Wellsboro, was the Technical Director. His calm presence backstage and effective feedback helped to keep the cast on-point during the entirety of the production. Davis helped to design, position, and hang all of the lighting for the show while also designing many of the special effects scenes that occurred during the show. He also led the construction of all of the set pieces and was the head of costume acquisition. If it happened backstage, then Davis had a part in it.

Todd Ranney, an assistant professor of Voice and Opera at MU, coordinated all the blocking as well as the character development, acting, and movements and locations of the cast.

Deanna Yoder ’16 was available to assist the cast at every single rehearsal, helped in the design/production of props, and functioned as the student stage manager. Yoder was



always available to help and assist Davis and Monkelien throughout the entire production of Shrek the Musical.

Erin Haafke ’16 worked tirelessly to ensure that Shrek and Donkey had the most realistic looking makeup while also doing makeup for Fiona’s Ogre and the Dragon, and assisted in the direction of makeup for all characters on set.

Brandon Russell ’14 managed the mixing board and completed every sound check, provided sound monitoring for the cast, developed and implemented special effects, and did anything and everything with sound.

Although a few individuals have been highlighted for their work in the production of Shrek the Musical, it is important to remember that a successful production requires dedication, passion, and involvement from everyone involved. Without the stage hands to provide water to the cast members behind the scenes they surely wouldn’t have been able to sing as well, and the musical would have looked quite odd if no one was around to throw the pulls to change the different backdrops. These are but a few of the things that go on behind the scenes that the audience never sees. The successful production of Shrek the Musical is a testament to the passion, dedication, and pure love of creating something wonderful for others that each member exemplified. Don’t miss out on the opportunity to see something amazing at the next musical production at Mansfield University. If you would like to financially support future productions/opportunities, contact Monkelien at [smonkeli@mansfield.edu](mailto:smonkeli@mansfield.edu).

*Ben Auger is a third-year Residence Director of Sycamore Hall at Mansfield University and is from Richmond Hill, Georgia. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Organizational Leadership from Mansfield University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology/ Anthropology and History from Berry College. He can be contacted at [bauger@mansfield.edu](mailto:bauger@mansfield.edu).*



# The Long Way to Student Success

BY BEN AUGER

Aligning Mansfield University's actions with its mission in order to provide students with a personalized education. That is one of the main goals of the new Dean of Students and Associate Vice President of Student Life, Nigel Long.

Long's goal is rooted in the core tenants of the Mansfield Creed. He has developed a four-part strategy in order to maximize successful outreach and create an excellent collegiate experience for students.



## OUTREACH

### **Intentional**

- Every action is proactive rather than reactive

### **Purposeful**

- The desired outcome for each action must be determined prior to acting

### **Influential**

- Every action must exert positive influence on the campus community or MU constituents

### **Impactful**

- Each action must be effective in ensuring student

Long frequently is seeking new and innovative ways to set Mansfield University apart, all while remaining connected to the individual student experience. His results-oriented focus and data-driven mindset have him frequently asking, "Is what we are doing working? And if so, let's share it with others."

Long believes that everyone on campus participates in retention and that "each touch-point is another opportunity to have a positive impact." His long-term vision for Mansfield University is to create an environment that emphasizes accountability, teamwork and collaboration. In addition to this, Long ardently advocates for the idea that every individual must believe that they can have a profound effect on a student's experience each day.

Two major components of his plan for successful student outreach involve the creation of "Playbooks" and "Timelines" for each department on campus. Nigel's new initiative will break down information siloes and

propel Mansfield into the future as a team focused on student success.

A "Playbook" is similar to a coach's playbook as it is a summary of every single program, project, event, or activity that each individual employee is responsible for in their role. The "Playbook" is broken down into various tabs that record what the program is, the resources necessary to execute it, the purpose of the program, who the focus/focal group(s) are, the anticipated and actual attendance of the program, feedback to improve the program in the future, and much more. Although this might sound like a lot of information, the "Playbook" provides individuals with a "one-stop-shop" to learn what a particular role is responsible for on-campus.

The "Timeline" is coupled with the "Playbook" in order to provide an easy-to-read roadmap for individuals to see exactly what they will do during the course of the year as well as creating an environment that emphasizes accountability. The recorded information will be analyzed and assessed in order to determine best practices for the future while also providing a record of information so that Mansfield University can better share its success stories.

Long's passion for ensuring student success was evident at The Fireside Chat he spoke at in February. He encouraged students to play an active role in the campus community during their time at Mansfield stating, "I want owners, not renters." Although Long's statement about ownership was initially given to students, Nigel has encouraged MU employees to heed his advice and become more involved at the University.



## Feeling at *Home*

BY BEN AUGER

The Housing, Dining, and Campus Life Department at Mansfield University focuses on providing students with state of the art housing and dining options, at an attractive price, with programs/events that supplement their liberal arts education. There are four different residence halls on-campus: Hickory, Oak, Spruce and Sycamore, all opened in 2012 and 2013.

Each residence hall is staffed by a complement of Resident Assistants, a Graduate Assistant and a Residence Director.

The Resident Assistants are student staff members that are currently pursuing Bachelor's degrees. The Graduate Assistant is a student that is currently pursuing a Master's degree at Mansfield.

Residence Directors are full-time employees that hold a Master's degree and focus on providing overall supervision to the Graduate Assistant, the Resident Assistants and their own individual residence hall. Each residence hall has its own unique mission/vision that guides the programs/events that are hosted by the staff.

Hickory Hall is the First-Year Experience residence hall and focuses on providing students with a fun opportunity to transition into the collegiate experience. There are five unique themes that incoming students can select to live in and the programs/events hosted by the Resident Assistants will center on the specific theme. The five themes are as follows: outdoor enthusiast, creative artist, going viral, explorer, and foodie.

Oak Hall is a residence hall for second and third year students and focuses on beginning to develop independence and identity in students.

Spruce Hall is a residence hall for second and third year students and focuses on providing students with unique opportunities to cultivate independence, self-identity, and cultural awareness. Additionally, Spruce Hall is the home of

many Greek Life organizations on campus.

Sycamore Hall is a residence hall for fourth year students and is the Upper-class Independent Living Hall (UILH). This community focuses on helping prepare students for the transition from the collegiate experience to graduate studies or employment through special programs and events. Sycamore Hall has official corporate partnerships with Nationwide Insurance and the Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU) to provide funding and programmatic support.

Each fall, the individual residence halls host a large program as part of "Welcome Week" to welcome back both new and returning students to campus. These programs are special traditions of on-campus living and students eagerly look forward to the programs each year. Hickory Hall hosts "The Hickory Hoedown", a western-themed food and dance party, where students are encouraged to dress up in boots, jeans, and flannel while bringing along their trusty cowboy hat. There are opportunities to participate in the hay bale toss, learn how to line dance, or participate in numerous games while snacking on delicious homemade foods. Oak Hall hosts the "Oaktober Fest", an opportunity for students to appreciate the German cultural festival of Oktoberfest by snacking on homemade foods, drinking from a root beer keg, or participating in numerous games and activities. Spruce Hall hosts the "Spruce Carnival", a large event featuring a variety of homemade games/activities, where students can snack on popcorn, frozen ice, and cotton candy. Sycamore Hall hosts the "Sycamore Luau" where students can participate in the limbo, hula hoop contest, MU trivia, and other games while snacking on grilled pineapple, ham and other tasty treats.

New events, activities, and programs are always planned by the Resident Assistants to ensure that students have a safe, healthy and fun time at MU.



# Greek Life Display Unveiled

Mansfield University has a long, proud history of Greek Life that continues to this day. President Fran Hendricks plans to celebrate that history with a permanent display honoring the history of MU's fraternities and sororities. The display will be housed on the fifth floor of North Hall and officially open on June 11.

Several members of Lambda Chi Alpha, of which Hendricks is a member, came to campus on February 19 to meet with the president and make the first donation, giving several items including chapter composites and paddles to the University archives.

"On behalf of all Greeks here at Mansfield, it's a tremendous honor to accept these pieces of history from my Lambda Chi brothers and to visit with them," Hendricks said. "It's my hope that other Greeks will



Rob Jodon '93 '95, John Szentesy '98 '12, Rob Grow '72, MU President Fran Hendricks '79, Bob Weber '88, Dan Donlick '87, Jack Hampton '91, Ben Witmer '91.

follow suit and help us celebrate the history of service, academic excellence, leadership and friendship we share."

Several other donations have been received. Anyone wanting more information on the project, or wishing to make a donation, can contact the Alumni Relations Office at [alumni2@mansfield.edu](mailto:alumni2@mansfield.edu) or (888) 305-6505.



## Golden and Going Strong

The Iota Theta chapter of Delta Zeta at Mansfield celebrated its 50th anniversary on March 12. Fourteen founding sisters from 1966 (Sandra Kaley Anstadt, Susan Girton Binley, Linda Mase Botz, Linda Hemming Brant, Jean Lent Foutz, Connie Wojcik Hodder, Betty Ungemach Hudson, Margaret Heffentrayer Kleisath, Paula Miller, Luisiana Giangiulio Samworth, Marcia Ward Shermam, Susan Fellows Standefer, Susan Karns Thursby, Margaret Barbour Waibel) were among the more than 130 who returned for the celebration.

The founding sisters were joined by the others in attendance to reenact the original chapter composite taken in front of the president's house.

The reunion included a display of Iota Theta memorabilia throughout the years, a campus and Delta Zeta suite tour, an afternoon tea with President Hendricks and his wife, Connie, and an evening banquet.

More than \$2,000 was raised through a silent auction to benefit the Painted Turtle Camp. Members also raised funds for the Mrs. "J" scholarship at the Mansfield Foundation in memory of Karen Starner-Jacobson who served as the Iota Theta Collegiate Chapter Advisor for many years. Also, the Karen Jacobson Memorial Alumni Scholarship was announced. Efforts are currently underway to endow this special fund, which will provide financial assistance to generations of Delta Zeta sisters at MU for generations to come.

# CLASS NOTES

Share your professional achievements, personal accomplishments and life milestones with us so we can share them with your fellow Mounties.

## ONLINE

- Go to [alumni.mansfield.edu/classnotes](http://alumni.mansfield.edu/classnotes)
- You will be prompted to enter your login information.

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**Robert Dolbear**, who retired as principal at Dallas (PA) Senior HS in 1978, celebrated his 100th birthday on Dec. 7, 2015.

Dolbear was the originator of the Old Shoe rivalry between Dallas and Lake-Leman 67 years ago. His family and representatives of both teams visited him at Greenbriar to hear the story of how it started. Dolbear still attends the Robert L. Dolbear Senior Girls All Star Baseball game played every June.

74

**Fred Bubeck** can be contacted at [f.bubeck@att.net](mailto:f.bubeck@att.net)

76

**David Calvert**, former band director and judge for the PA Federation of Contest Judges - Lakeshore Marching Band Assoc., is currently an insurance agent and choir director of the Findley Lake United Methodist Church and praise band. His address is PO Box 37, Findley Lake, NY 14736. [flains@fairpoint.net](mailto:flains@fairpoint.net)

**Mark Johnson** is living in Paoli, PA, and can be reached at [mjohnsonxyz@aol.com](mailto:mjohnsonxyz@aol.com)

77

**Cecelia Bennardi Rogers** resides in Heath, TX.

78

**Mark Galati** of Interior Investments was named the 2015 Outstanding Chamber Member of the Naperville (PA) Area Chamber of Commerce.

81

**Tim Coyle** is working in the Special Operations Division at Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, where he has worked since 1981. He is the Lieutenant/SWAT Commander for the airport's Dept. of Public Safety. He is also Fire Chief of the Shady Dale Fire Dept. Tim lives in Marietta, OK with his wife Dawn and their son Chris.

**Leanne Schnader** is living in Fort Collins, CO and can be contacted at [leanneschnader@comcast.net](mailto:leanneschnader@comcast.net)

82

**Susan Nied Lee** resides at 60 Bethel Hill Rd, Susquehanna, PA 18847. [kjljl@nep.net](mailto:kjljl@nep.net)

83

**Michael Dunsmore** is living at 501 S Harding Ave, Unit 901 Goldsboro, NC 27534. [mikedunsmore@wcps.org](mailto:mikedunsmore@wcps.org)

84

**Mark Mullen** writes: "I retired from federal law enforcement after 30 years of service in 2014. I was blessed with a fantastic career and served with four different federal agencies: US Supreme Court, US Secret Service, US Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) and US Nuclear Regulatory Commission. I traveled many miles, conducted a variety of investigations, interviewed thousands of individuals, and met a large cast of characters from all social strata. However, I am most thankful for my faith, family, and friends like my fellow MU 1984 alumni (Chris McCreary and Jon O'Dea). I am also thankful for Dr. Ted Ryan, for his unique teaching methods utilizing an objective and subjective analysis; Dr. Gale Largey, for having a great sense of humor during his 'Futurist Course'; and Martha Donahue, whom I enjoyed working for at the MU library. Mansfield will always be a place where friends are made and friendships are fostered. During my time living and working in the Washington,



DC area, I had several happenstance and some planned social meetings with MU alumni from 1984-85 and ended up working with two alumni in various assignments and attending a training conference with yet another MU alum. I returned to my native Pennsylvania in 1998 and can be reached at meteorinv19@aol.com.

**Melinda Aaron Spooner** is living in Poughkeepsie, NY.

85

**Gerard Greco** lives in Carbondale, PA.

86

**Daria Rosar Groover** is currently working on her doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies through Virginia Tech, planning to finish in fall 2016.

87

**Mark McDaniel** resides in Milton, DE and can be contacted at macksic@outlook.com

**Melinda Crumb Jankowski** currently resides at 362 Blacktop Ln Mansfield PA 16933. She can be contacted at rncwelding@yahoo.com

88

**Robert Hepner** was recently celebrated and honored for his promotion from Fort Indiantown Gap Commander Lt. Col. to the rank of Colonel.

**Bryan Lane** is the new station manager at public radio station WQCS / 88.9 FM. Bryan brings 36 years of broadcasting

background to the area and is excited to return to the Treasure Coast where he worked in his early radio career.

**Carlos Vales** is living in Canal Zone, Israel: "I'm back home. It's been a long while." He can be reached at catch\_val@yahoo.com

89

**Shannon Argetsinger**

received the Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) Award in November 2015. The SOSA Award was created in 1990 with the support and encouragement of then Secretary of State James Baker and his wife Susan. Shannon, a DEA Special Agent, began volunteering as a baseball coach for the Hong Kong Little League (HKLL) in 2010 and became HKLL president in 2012. As president, Shannon oversees approx. 500 youth players, 33 teams, 300 parent volunteers, and a schedule that runs from August through March. He has also served as manager and head coach for the HKLL Asia Pacific Tournament All Star Team for the 2014 and 2015 seasons. Shannon has used baseball as a vehicle to share American culture with Chinese, Korean and Japanese players and their families, and has instilled understanding and acceptance among these diverse ethnic and cultural communities.

**Kevin Pomian** lives in Plymouth Meeting, PA and can be contacted at kgp1515@comcast.net.

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**Michelle Bixler** lives at 8294 Rt 235, Beavertown, PA 17813. michbix@gmail.com

**Eric Hartranft** resides in Hummelstown, PA.

**Chris Johannessen** is now a consultant with the Digital Labs Team at McKinsey & Company as of January 2016. He works closely with marketing and technology clients to assess, improve and build analytics and digital cloud infrastructures, optimize the customer decision journey, and transform processes and organizations to create competitive advantage. Chris received the Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2015 and looks forward to building on his past achievements in his new role at McKinsey. You can reach Chris via Twitter at @measurefuture, or via email at measurefuture@gmail.com.

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**Kathryn Annabel McGough** resides near Charlottesville, VA, where she continues to work for the University of Virginia Health System. Kathryn has been married for over 25 years. She has two teenage boys. Kathryn holds a Masters in Nursing from the University of Virginia. She is also certified in Nursing Professional Development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. She is a former president of the Association for Nursing Professional Development (ANPD) Central Virginia affiliate. She peer-reviewed the 4th edition of the Nursing Professional Development Core Curriculum in 2013 and is a chapter author for the Core Curriculum for Preceptor Advancement (2015). She also authored a chapter in the ANPD Charge Nurse e-learning module, publication pending.

95

**Christine Buss Rice** is living in Gastonia, NC.

99

**Sandra Madej Crundwell** is living in Mansfield, OH.

**Kara Latapolski** can be contacted at karalata@latapolski@gmail.com

02

**Andrea and Chad Swain** welcomed a son, Gunnar Eugene Swain, in February.

10

**Nicholas and Brittany Kostishion '09 Hansrote** welcomed a baby girl, Bree Natalie Hansrote, in January.

03

**Marcel Veilleux** resides at 11450 NC Hwy 32N Roper NC 27970 and can be contacted at mveilleux@martin.k12.nc.us

11

**Matthew Owen** is living in Jamaica Plain, MA.

05

**Lauren Sentz Workman** lives in Stewartstown, PA and can be contacted at lauren.workman2782@gmail.com

12

**Matthew Westgate** resides at 14 Church St. Candor, NY 13743 and can be reached at westgatem518@gmail.com

06

**Blair and Whitney '10 Robbins** welcomed a daughter, Olivia Murphy Robbins, in March.

14

**Stephanie Hixenbaugh Martuccio** lives in Bradford, PA.

08

**Rose Snyder Beaver** is living in Roulette, PA and can be reached at rose.amber.beaver@gmail.com

15

**John Clapsaddle** is living in Palm Bay, FL., and can be reached at john.clapsaddle@yahoo.com

**Danielle Murray** is living in Horseheads, NY.



Margaret "Fuzzy" Horton, a Mansfield fixture for 67 years, passed away on May 4. She served generations of Mansfield students, faculty and staff as part of the dining services staff. There have been 19 presidents in Mansfield's history and Horton worked for 13 of them.

In 2013, a portrait of "Fuzzy" and pictures of dining services through her career was dedicated in Manser Hall. In 2015, MU President Fran Hendricks, who was one of the countless number of students Horton connected with, presented her with the Presidential Coin for Excellence.

## In Memoriam

*For those in the Mansfield University community that have passed away recently.*

### Alumni

Helen Harris McQueen '37  
Marjorie Cole Lee '44  
Louise Richardson Skramstad '45  
Cecil Simmons '47  
Frank Maminski '49  
William J. Keating '51  
Mary Jeannine Dilmore Green '54  
(Robert Packer School of Nursing)

Doris M. Neiley '56  
Joseph Matinas '58  
Manny Smigel '62  
Terry E. Manning '63  
Cynthia McKay '65  
Esther Gallup Smalley '66  
Evelyn Eaton '66  
Hugh Welfling '66

Michael Scala '66  
Joseph Petroff '68  
William Linkous '76  
John R. McCarthy, Jr. '78  
Justina M. Sechrist '14  
Mark Malloy '15

### Faculty

Shaker G. Ramasamy

### Retired Faculty

Leslie D. Evans '49  
J. Richard Walker

### Retired Staff

Margaret "Fuzzy" Horton  
Shirley Smith





## My Life as a Mountie

### MARQUISE ISAAC-RIVERS

My Mansfield experience has definitely been a very rewarding one.

Since enrolling in the fall of 2012, I have really appreciated the time I have spent here and the lessons that I will be taking with me. I have had the opportunity to grow as a strong and more mature individual while being able to build my resume at the same time. I have been able to get involved in various organizations and become an active member of my campus community.

I came to Mansfield understanding that this will be a brand new experience for me. I understood that this is a small university, but instead of seeing this as a negative thing I viewed it as a positive. I saw this as an opportunity to be a “big fish in a small pond.”

After spending my high school years in a big high school and spending my freshman year at Drexel University, I knew it was time for a change and Mansfield University was the place to make that happen.

In my quest to become that “Big Fish,” I began to accept executive board positions that would allow me to create a name for myself. I became the President of the Kappa Mu chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, the Black Student Union, Men for Progress, and Enactus. I also became the Vice President of the Student Government

Association and the Treasurer of the Flashlight.

Along with accepting positions, I was also able to work as an advocate for diversity at our school. I worked as a Martin Luther King, Jr. Center Diversity Ambassador, a Summer Gateway Mentor, and the Head Coordinator of the 2105 Operation Ambition Diversity Conference.

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**I saw this as an opportunity to be a “big fish in a small pond.”**

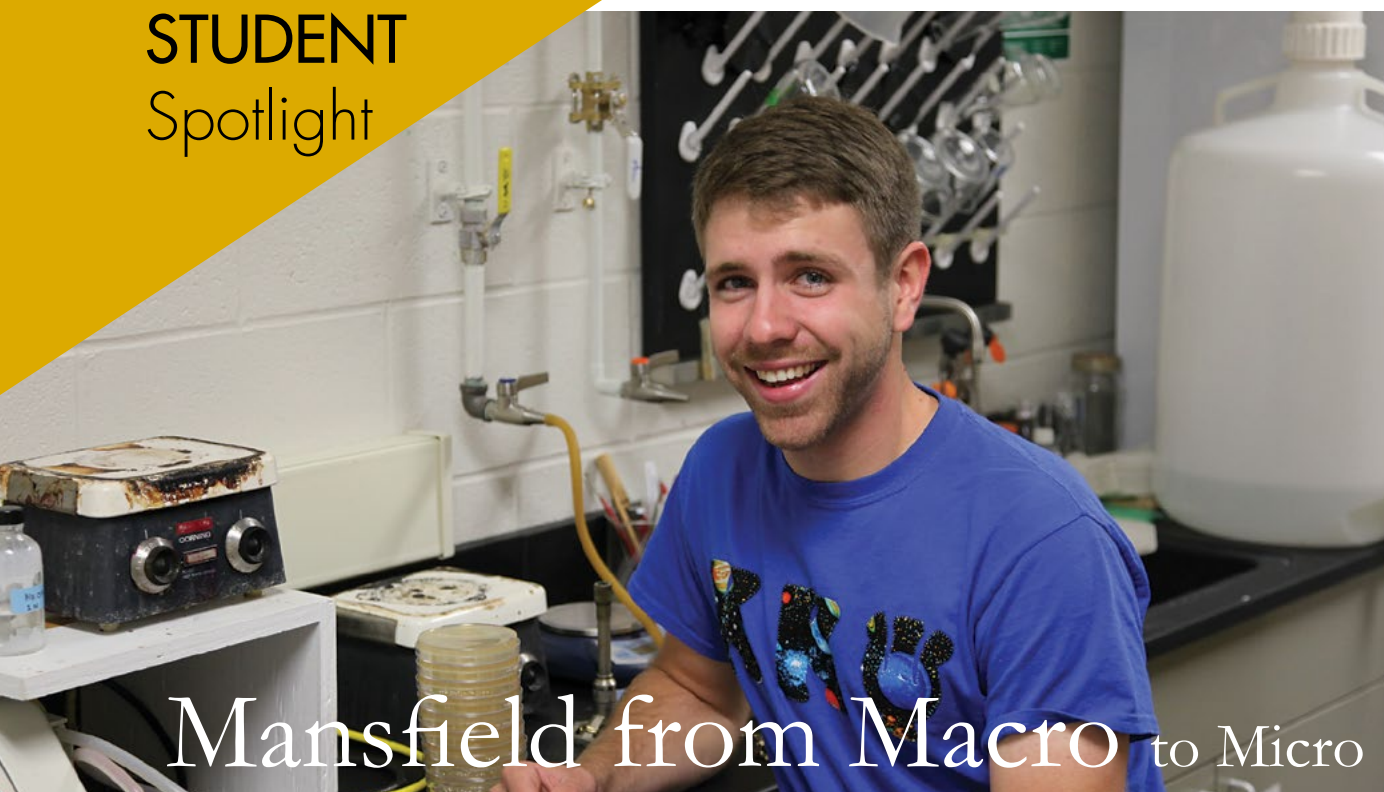
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Two of my biggest highlights here as a student were winning the 2013 Enactus Regional Championship and being named the 2015 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award Recipient.

As graduation quickly approaches, I am able to look back and reflect on this. I have grown professionally and mentally through the various experience that I have encountered and I owe that all to Mansfield.

I know that I can be successful as long as I take advantage of every opportunity that is presented to me and work at it. I truly believe that to be successful you must value Character, Culture, Scholarship, and Service and that is what Mansfield is all about.

# STUDENT Spotlight



## Mansfield from Macro to Micro

### ANDREW PUTT

My name is Andrew Putt and I speak on behalf of nature. It is my desire to help nature which brought me to Mansfield University.

In December of 2016 I will graduate with a degree in Environmental Biology and Watershed Management Geoscience. I plan to focus on bioremediation, in the area of environmental microbiology.

Four years ago, I would have had a much different view for my future. Back when I was looking for schools, Pennsylvania was amid the gas boom producing an estimated 6 billion cubic feet of natural gas per day. Nearly 46% of the state's gas wells were located in Tioga, Lycoming, and Bradford counties, making it an ideal place for me to study the impacts of gas drilling and human contact with the environment.

My mind was decided, I was going to work for a county conservation district, become a water quality biologist or teach high school. My first year at MU I enrolled in the externship program where I shadowed a conservation technician and a biology teacher, both of which were my ideal careers. It was a success, I made great connections and was certain this was what I wanted to do, or so it seemed.

The following semester I began working on campus as a lab assistant for Microbiology Professor, Dr. Jeanne Kagle, and slowly developed an interest in microbiology. One day I sat down with Dr. Kagle and talked for two hours about microbial environmental remediation; I was hooked.

Since that day I have focused on bioremediation, developing a senior research project for a bioreactor that oxidizes metals from acid mine drainage using naturally occurring microbes. I also interned with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental protection (DEP) in which I worked directly under the state central office staff sampling for water quality and even conducting sampling of suspended microbes for recreational use monitoring.

In addition to academic advancements and networking connections, I have had the opportunity to contribute to Mansfield University in my on-campus involvement. I joined nine different organizations and performed with four different musical ensembles during my time at Mansfield. I have had leadership experiences, such as president of Colleges Against Cancer, LEO Club and of my initiate class of **KKΨ** (National Honorary Band Fraternity).

I had the opportunity to revive the Carontawan Yearbook after a 25-year hiatus and the honor of being the editor-in chief for the past two years. I joined the sustainability committee, where I had an incredible opportunity to help first hand in reducing the amount of solid waste our campus generates with the new ORCA, a digester that breaks down food into grey water.

Every academic and extracurricular experience at Mansfield has developed me as a student and as a person. Mansfield is not just a dot on a map, it is a place in my heart and I just want to say, thank you for everything, Mansfield University.



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football games this season, the sports information office will produce weekly features on events and personalities of Mountaineer football history.

The uniforms of the 2016 team will feature the official 125th anniversary patch.

In special recognition, all former players and staff can sign up for an official commemorative Mansfield University football game jersey featuring their name and number. The jerseys will be available at the Steve Zegalia Memorial Golf Outing on July 8-9 as well as the official 125 anniversary celebration ceremony on Saturday, October 15 at Homecoming.

The 125th Anniversary of Football celebration during Homecoming Weekend will include the annual Butsko Breakfast, a special on field recognition of all returning football players, coaches and staff, post-game tailgate in Decker Gymnasium featuring decade-by-decade storyboards, historical mementoes and special gifts.

Mansfield will also announce three different historical era teams; Founders Era (1891-1932), Greatest Generation Era (1933-1975), and Modern Era (1976-2015) prior to revealing the 125th Anniversary team comprised of players who earned all-era honors. The 125th Anniversary team will be announced at halftime of the home finale on October 29.

A link to all stories, events and activities for the 125th Anniversary of Mansfield Football will be posted online at **GoMounties.com** starting on May 23, exactly 125 years from the date of the first-ever game.

Football alumni, coaches and staff members and friends of football will be able to register for the Steve Zegalia Golf Outing, the Frank Butsko Breakfast and the 125th Anniversary of Mansfield Football Tailgate celebration on that link as well as register for their official 125th Anniversary of Mansfield Football personalized game-day jersey.

## Mansfield University 125th Anniversary of Football Events

### *“Celebrating 125 years of Blood, Sweat and Cheers”*

July 8-9	Steve Zegalia Memorial Football Golf Outing – Corey Creek Golf Club
September 17	Season Opener Home vs. Penn.....7 p.m. LUMA 2016/Family & Friends Weekend Announcing of the Founders Era of Football Team (1891-1932)
September 24	Home vs. Cornell .....2 p.m. 1890s Weekend, Josh Palmer Pigskin Classic Announcing of the Greatest Generation Era of Football Team (1933-1975)
October 1	Away at Army ..... 1 p.m.
October 7	Away at Navy .....7 p.m.
October 14	Homecoming Weekend Alumni Athletics Hall of Fame Induction.....6 p.m.
October 15	Homecoming Weekend Home vs. Franklin Pierce .....2 p.m. Frank Butsko Breakfast .....8 a.m. 125th Football Anniversary Celebration Pregame gather on field of football alumni Post-game tailgate celebration in Decker Gymnasium Announcing of the Modern Era of Football Team (1933-2016)
October 29	Home vs. Post University .....3:30 p.m. Senior Day Announcing 125th Football Team
November, 6	Away at Chestnut Hill ..... noon

# Music in the Hills, Music in the Valleys

The Endless Mountain Music Festival experience brings the passion of classical orchestral performances and chamber ensembles decorated with blues and jazz. Blend in the spectacular mountains, the Pennsylvania Grand Canyon; carved by the Ice Age, sparkling blue-green streams, forests teaming with wildlife, and you will see the timeless beauty interwoven with nature and music. Surrounded by magnificent scenery and small town charm, Endless Mountain Music Festival offers 16 days of world-class performances in Northern PA & the Finger Lakes Region of NY.

Mansfield University, one of the finest small liberal arts colleges in the United States, serves as the hub for festival performances, practices, and housing for the sixty-two musicians and students that come each summer from all over the world to produce extraordinary music together. Mansfield University is the home of Endless Mountain Music Festival and offers world-class performance space, practice rooms, and a multitude of Steinway pianos along with a Music Department that hails some of the best professors and staff.

The Mansfield University and the Endless Mountain Music Festival collaboration creates a mecca of music each summer and brings over 3,000 visitors to our area which also strengthens the local economy to the small towns that we serve.

## Endless Mountain Music Festival

*Stephen Gunzenhauser - Artistic Director*

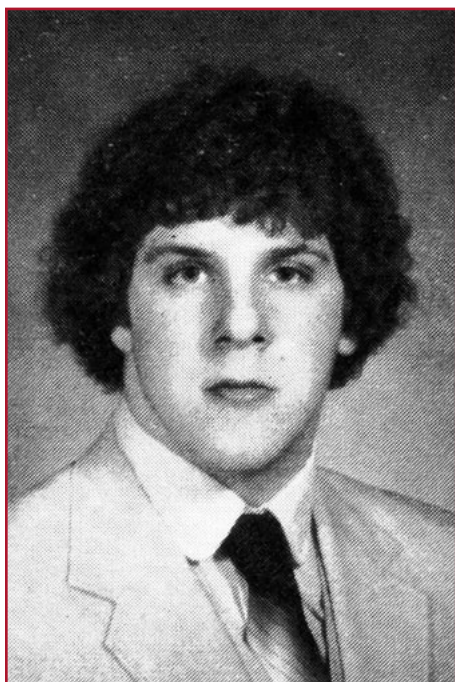
July 22 – August 6

[www.endlessmountain.net](http://www.endlessmountain.net)

Call for more information

570-787-7800

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his true passion was for coaching. But economic realities have a way of altering plans; he was in a full-time (at least in pay) coaching job, so Smeltz decided it was time to get down to “business.”

The decision landed him at ASI and proved to be a good decision, but his passion for coaching never waned. Smeltz even used his coaching experiences and techniques to lead others at ASI, guiding the company through some tough times to their eventual success.

In 2013, Smeltz returned to the gridiron and his passion, joining the coaching staff at Newport (PA) High School as defensive coordinator.

“I love coaching, I love

strategizing, I love the game of football, but just as importantly, I hope I can be a positive role model for the kids,” he said.

“There’s more to life than making more money. I never set out to make a lot of money, it’s more the challenge that gets you excited, and it’s the journey.”

Coaching football took Smeltz to inner city Baltimore on recruiting trips. The exposure to the needs of inner city youth showed him, firsthand, the value of second and third chances and offering opportunities. Recognizing his blessings and working to give back seems to be characteristic of Smeltz. His love for the game, his dedication to his alma mater and his determination to make a difference has resulted in his generous gift to Mansfield University’s athletics program.

“People thank me for what I’m doing, but I should be doing more,” Smeltz said. “Hopefully I will be able to.”

“I really feel that athletics is an extension of the classroom. Athletics has taught me lessons that have had a profound effect on my life and the success that I’ve had.” -Kent Smeltz '82





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over time, however, all the students' English improved considerably. During his time at MU, he co-authored a paper that will be published in a peer-reviewed chemistry journal, and he now plans to apply to an American university for his Ph.D.

### CAMPUS LIFE

During their stay, the students actively participated in campus and community life. They attended residence hall programming and joined other MU students for activities. The students even likened MU residence halls to four-star hotels in China! Many said that one of the biggest highlights of their trip was interacting with President Hendricks. The president personally welcomed them on their first day in the United States, invited them to his home for dinner, and joined them in celebrating Chinese New Year. When presented with their program certificates at the Council of Trustees meeting in March, Kang Qian commented, "We had a wonderful time here. We also love Mrs. Hendricks's homemade cookies!"

At every turn, Mansfield faculty, staff, and students have worked tirelessly to make students feel at home and to give them an experience they'll never forget. During dinner at his home, President Hendricks told the students they are now members of the Mansfield University family and that he hoped after their program ends that they will come back to visit. Summing up the group's reflections, Wei Zhen concludes, "The United States is a fascinating nation. The longer you stay, the more deeply you love it. And in word, I love Mansfield."

*Brad Lint is an assistant professor of English. He was instrumental in organization and implementation of the travel-study program and also active as translator when needed.*



# Adding to the Professional Toolbox: Third Annual Senior Transitions Conference

BY NICHOLE LEFELHOC

More than 110 students, including 65 from Mansfield University, and 50 professional volunteers participated in the third annual Senior Transition Conference in Harrisburg, PA on November 7-8. The conference is designed to prepare seniors for the transition from college to the world of work.

The two-day event, led by Mansfield University's Nichole Lefelhoc, director of the Career Center and Andee Dunham, associate director for Student Life and Student Transition, was open to graduating seniors from institutions across Pennsylvania. Participating institutions included Mansfield University, East Stroudsburg University, Lock Haven University, Millersville University, Cedar Crest College, Lycoming College, Penn State Harrisburg, HACC Community College and Lebanon Valley College.

The conference opened with keynote speaker, Mary Falkenstern, professor, Speech-Language pathologist and communication coach from Iona College, who presented on a critical component of being a powerful leader: "Effective communication in the workplace".

Students chose from a menu of various workshops covering topics such as evaluating the job offer & benefits package, repaying student loans, personal finance, graduate school admissions, among others. Day one of the conference ended with the opportunity for students to network with professionals from various businesses and industries. Day two of the conference students were given the opportunity to work on interviewing skills, and get advice on resume building, all leading up to a mock interview with professional volunteers, including several Mansfield University alumni.

"Coming together with multiple schools and

professionals in the workforce from all different fields allowed us a window to post-college life. This was a valuable exchange of ideas and skills to enhance our professional toolbox," Kurtis Morgan, Mansfield senior in Environmental Science, said.

"The Senior Transitions Conference was definitely eye opening. I believe that I gained skills from this conference that I haven't learned throughout my four years of classes at Mansfield. I am beyond glad that I took the first step toward my future by attending this conference," Elizabeth Quillinan, Mansfield senior in Business Administration, said.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. I'm impressed with all that you offer to your graduating students through this event," Don Martin, founder and president of Graduate School Roadmap, said. Martin, a graduate school admissions expert, was so well received by students that he was invited to speak again at Mansfield University during the spring semester.

The conference has drawn national attention, being mentioned in the December 2015 issue of NODA Review, the newsletter for the Association of Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education among other national news outlets.

Pennsylvania State Employees Credit Union (PSECU) is the presenting sponsor for the conference. Nationwide Insurance, Enterprise Holdings, State Farm, Liberty Mutual, Hershey Entertainment and Resorts, Next Step Test Prep and NODA also serve as sponsors.

*For more information on the Senior Transitions Conference and the MU Career Center, visit [career.mansfield.edu](http://career.mansfield.edu).*





# MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY MOMENTS



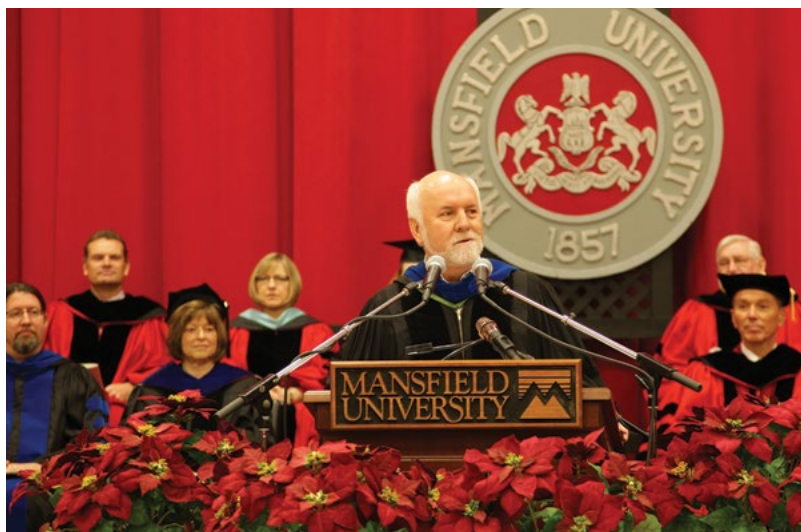
Luke Hils '18 and Brandon Garrett '17 threw back-to-back no-hitters in a doubleheader sweep of Kutztown on April 11.



Sheri Beam '71 was the speaker for Spring Commencement on May 7.



Members of the campus community gathered at Van Norman Field on April 15 to spell out their support, R.E.D. (Remember Everyone Deployed), for U.S. troops and their families. Every Friday is R.E.D. Friday at MU.



Retired Professor Russ Dodson was the speaker for Fall commencement on December 12.



Three hundred and fifty students, along with staff and faculty completing 1,253 hours of work in the annual "The Big Event," a day-long community service project on April 16.





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